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## BOOK REVIEWS

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*Economic History of the United States.* By E. L. BOGART. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1907. 8vo, pp. xv+522.

The scarcity of textbooks on this subject makes the appearance of a new one an event of interest, and we may add, in this case, a welcome one.

In the division of his space the author has given nearly one-half of his book to the period since 1860, and has divided the remainder about equally between the period preceding 1809 and that between 1808 and 1860. Those inclined to lay emphasis on the historical side will think this slights the earlier period, but those who believe that a course on this subject is primarily of value as leading up to and helping in the solution of present-day problems will approve of this arrangement. Within these periods the subject-matter is taken up topically—agriculture, manufactures, transportation, etc. But at the end of such periods, say the nine chapters covering the years 1808 to 1860, one feels the need of a more general chapter showing the interaction of the various parts, knitting the whole together, and bringing out the broader phases of the development during the period and the characteristics of its underlying economic organization.

The book is written in a simple, straightforward, matter-of-fact style, is largely given to description and narration, and has little discussion of the questions involved, though the author does not hesitate to express his own opinions which usually agree with those most generally accepted. Possibly not much more can wisely be attempted in a text designed, as this is, for high schools as well as colleges. But is it not time to raise the question whether it is best to try and meet the needs of both secondary schools and colleges by one text? Are not the methods of attack and object aimed at in treating this subject so different with the two grades of students that the attempt to adjust the book to the needs of one grade—in fact, of course, the lower—inevitably detracts from its possible value in meeting the requirements of the other? It may be replied that the instructor can supply what is missing. But with this subject, especially in its present state, he already has his hands full. This difficulty, which the author evidently felt, has

been partially met by adding to each chapter a series of suggestive topics and questions with references. They will prove a welcome aid, but cannot meet the main objections.

The illustrations are abundant and excellent, and the supply of maps generous, but a more extensive use of charts would have greatly aided the reader in trying to grasp the statistical data. The bibliography is not in the form to prove most useful.

The author, as is inevitable in a subject covering so broad a field, has had to rely largely on the work of others. The deficiencies in our knowledge of this subject are altogether too great for anyone to pretend to cover it all. Still are there not certain broader phases of the subject, some of the deep underlying and most fundamental factors which have been at work molding our economic history, that might have been less neglected? Further, insufficient emphasis is laid upon causal relations and the vital connection between events. Little attempt is made to point out specifically and establish the relation between the events narrated or the facts described and the big changes in the economic organization of society which were taking place at such a rapid rate during much of our history. In short, the subject is treated too much as a simple string of events and not enough as a very live, vital, and organic development—a development an interpretation and proper understanding of which is so essential for a comprehensive and sound grasp of the chief problems now confronting the country. Possibly some of these points should be charged up against the difficulties arising from trying to combine a school and college text in one book. If so it but emphasizes the objection to such an undertaking.

However, in the undeveloped state in which the study of the economic history of the United States now is one cannot justly be too exacting, and certainly great credit is due to Professor Bogart for having made a distinct advance over anything yet written.

CHESTER W. WRIGHT

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*Introductory Economics.* By A. S. JOHNSON. New York: School of Liberal Arts and Sciences for Non-residents, 1907. Pp. 338.

This book may be described as a popular exposition of the principles of political economy as they are taught by that special group of American economists of which Professors Clark and